

MASS. HS 50.103: 996/Winter

# Prevention Works!

News of the  
Massachusetts  
Children's Trust Fund  
Winter 1996

The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize all segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families. Created by state law in 1988, CTF is charged with implementing Massachusetts' child abuse prevention plan.

*Prevention Works!*  
is a quarterly publication of the Children's Trust Fund.

Editorial Board:  
Edward Bailey, Richard Connolly, Marcia Pomerance, Denise Snyder

Editor: Juliette Fay

## Welcome New Board Members!

CTF is extremely fortunate to have the following people join the Board of Directors:

Betsy Busch, MD,  
Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician  
Dorothy S. Dean, Vice President,  
Private Banking, Fleet Bank  
Virginia S. Houston, Vice President/  
Financial Consultant, Smith Barney  
Burton J. Weinbaum, Retired Corporate  
Vice President, A&P  
John Wozniak, Senior Vice President,  
Stop & Shop

## CTF on the Move

As of January 1, 1996, CTF will have a new home! The new office affords more space for increased efforts to prevent child abuse in Massachusetts. Please note the address below. The phone numbers will remain the same.

## Children's Trust Fund



Preventing Child Abuse In Massachusetts

### Friends of Children's Trust Fund

294 Washington Street

Suite 640

Boston, MA 02108

(617) 727-8957

(800) 252-8403

Fax: 727-8997

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## New Year's Resolutions for Positive Parenting

1. I will take some time each day to give all my attention to my child. I will tell my child something I really appreciate about her/him.
2. I will use time-outs or take away privileges when my child acts out. I will not spank or use other forms of physical punishment.
3. I will help my child practice safety habits, such as what to do if he/she gets lost.
4. I will share something about myself with my child: for example, a story about when I was young, or a funny thing that happened to me this week.
5. I will try to help out when other parents I know are going through a stressful time by offering to make a meal or take the kids for an afternoon.
6. If I have a spouse or partner, we will make arrangements to spend time alone—and not just to talk about the kids!
7. I will support prevention efforts in my community. For example, I will see that my child's school or daycare has an abuse prevention curriculum, or talk with my state legislator about the importance of child abuse prevention.



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 a CTF brochure  
 10 Ways to Keep Children Safer in  
Spanish   English   Portuguese (please circle)  
 information on school-based child abuse prevention  
 information on CTF's Preschool Initiative  
 FY'97 Parenting Education Grant Request for Proposal  
 A Guide to Parenting Education Resources and Materials 1995-96  
(cost: \$10 within Massachusetts; \$20 out of state)  
 1994 Parenting Education Conference Report (cost: \$10)

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\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Massachusetts Families

## Parenting Education Conference a Sell-out!

**A** View from all Sides: Multi-disciplinary Perspectives on Parenting Education, held on November 13, was sold out for the third consecutive year, with 750 people in attendance. Regrettably, an additional 300 could not be accommodated due to lack of space. Participants traveled from 14 states to attend.

Keynote speaker Dr. Dana Friedman, co-founder and co-president of the Families and Work Institute of New York, launched the conference with an inspiring speech titled *Valuing Families: Rhetoric or Reality?* Friedman is a parent and frequent contributor to *Working Mother Magazine* and consults with major corporations on family/work policies.

Friedman commented on the dramatic changes in this country's work-force over the past thirty years. Now that almost half of all wage-earners go home to children, employers are beginning to develop policies and benefits such as flex-time and child care. While these services help to lessen what employers see as "the distractions" experienced by parent-employees, they are still a long way from being truly supportive.

Even when companies do develop such policies, many parents do not use them for fear of repercussions. They know, for instance, that they

will never be considered outstanding if they leave at the appointed hour instead of staying late. Friedman cited studies that said the greatest factor in determining the effects of maternal employment on children is the mother's satisfaction with her work. Thus, if we want to improve the lives of children with working parents (and maximize the contributions of parent-employees), the work environment must improve.

The lunch-time speech was given by parent educator Jean Illsley Clarke, the author of several acclaimed books and series, including *Self Esteem: A Family Affair*. Clarke gave an insightful and entertaining speech titled *Helping Parents Help Themselves*.

In speaking about how parent educators can help parents to empower themselves, Clarke identified four essential components. The first, she asserted, is to stand in awe (rather than judgement) of each family's reality. Second, educators must help parents to understand "The Big Picture" of the world around them, so that they might better comprehend the forces that affect their families. Third, parent educators can offer parents skills and tools with which to cope with such forces and successfully care for their children.

Finally, parent educators must give of themselves, both through sharing their experiences and through modeling healthy self-care. Both Clarke's and Friedman's speeches were very well-received by conference attendees.

**SAVE THE DATE !**

## Tools for Building Strong Families and Communities: A Multi-disciplinary Institute on Family Support

**April 22-23, 1996 in Boxborough, Mass.**

Mark your calendars now for this exciting opportunity. Twenty all-day institutes will provide intensive training on strategies and skills for working with families and communities. Brochures will be mailed in early March.

# Getting the Message Out

## Children's Art from Melrose, Somerville and Wakefield Raises Funds for Prevention

**W**ABU-TV Channel 68's holiday cards featured art created by students from the Hoover School, St. Anthony's School and Montrose School, all of which use CTF's program *Kids and Company*. The station generously made a donation to CTF in return for each drawing. The cards' greeting: "There is no better way to express the joy of the holiday season than through the eyes of a child."

### Katy Abel is Good News for Parents

**W**HDH-TV Channel 7 reporter Katy Abel was honored at the November conference for her commitment to promoting parenting education and support. *Parent to Parent*, her outstanding segment, is broadcast on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the 5 p.m. news. It covers the challenges of parenting in a positive manner.

As a mother, Abel brings personal understanding to her work. She notes, "If parents can feel less isolated, if they can say 'yes, that's me!' when they watch *Parent to Parent*, then we've done something valuable."

### A Slam Dunk for Prevention in Melrose

**I**n November, Boston Celtics player Eric Montross and his wife, Laura, visited the Hoover School in Melrose to talk with students about what they are learning though *Kids and Company*, the child abuse prevention curriculum funded by CTF.

A reporter from New England Cable News covering the event exclaimed, "I've heard many athletes give presentations, and Eric and Laura's talk was the most outstanding." Principal Jim Wooster remarked, "It's a great program, and I've heard only positive things from kids and parents."

### CTF Joins Springfield's Parade of Big Balloons

**L**incoln School Principal Henry Figueredo and approximately 20 fifth graders represented CTF in Springfield's Parade of the Big Balloons for the second consecutive year. Marching in front of a huge pink cat balloon, and dressed in their bright CTF shirts and CTF blue hats, they communicated the message that prevention works. The Lincoln School uses the *Kids and Company* curriculum sponsored by CTF.

### Fall River Kicks Off 1996 Prevention Events

**I**n December, CTF's 1996 Fall River event was launched at a press conference with Mayor John Mitchell. CTF Executive Director Suzin Bartley and Mayor-Elect Edward Lambert, Jr. also announced CTF grants to three Fall River parenting support programs.

Event Committee Chair Donalda Silva presented CTF's 1995 Annual Report featuring drawings by Fall River students from last year's CTF-sponsored art contest. Dr. James Gibney, Superintendent of Schools, praised this worthwhile project and announced that the art contest will be repeated in the Spring. Many thanks to Fall River media, such as the *Tribune*, that covered the event.

# Expanding Resources

## Blue Cross Blue Shield Endorses Prevention

**T**hanks to the generosity of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, *Talking About Touching*, the popular preschool safety curriculum sponsored by CTF, is being funded in ten additional preschools this year. The program helps three- and four-year-olds learn about car, fire and water safety as well as skills for avoiding sexual abuse and abduction.

Preventing child abuse is not only humane, but cost-effective. It costs \$1,100 per preschool—an average of \$15 per child—for staff training, curricula, materials and parent workbooks. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts is to be congratulated for its leadership role in endorsing preventive measures such as *Talking About Touching*.

Preschools to be funded are:

- Early Child Center in Brockton
- Dorchester House Preschool
- Gloucester Integrated Preschool
- McHugh Head Start in Holyoke
- Smith Child Care Center in Northampton
- The Learning Garden in Orleans
- Christopher Robin Nusery School in Rochdale
- Salem Early Childhood Center
- Twin Oaks Farm Learning Center in Rehoboth
- Child Care Center in Westford

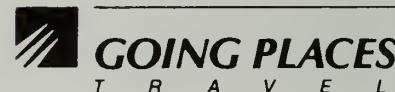


The Health Services Company

## CTF Gala Proves a Success

**U**n Soiree de Romance, CTF's fifth annual fundraiser on October 28, has once again raised needed dollars for child abuse prevention. Over 225 guests browsed amidst an extensive silent auction. Among first-time attendees were guests from Quirk Works auto dealership, a new CTF benefactor. "Quirk works to prevent child abuse, and is proud to support the Children's Trust Fund," declared owner Daniel J. Quirk.

Channel 7 news anchors John Marler and Cathy Marshall served as auctioneers at the live auction. Items included two round-trip tickets anywhere in the Continental USA, Mexico or the Caribbean donated by Going Places Travel and Continental Airlines.



Two lucky guests were able to purchase a one-week stay at Divi Divi Beach Resort in Aruba, thanks to the generosity of TNT vacations.



Attorney General Scott Harshbarger with Boston Police Superintendent Joseph Carter.

# Expanding Resources, cont.



Channel 7 reporter Katy Abel added to the excitement each time she announced a winner of each of the 17 raffle items. The evening provided fun for all while raising over \$50,000. If you missed this year's event, be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, November 16, 1996—CTF Gala!



*Channel 7's Cathy Marshall and John Marler with Laura Montross, wife of Boston Celtic Eric Montross.*



*Former Patriots Star John Hannah with CTF Board Member Judge Robert Terry.*



*CTF Executive Director Suzin Bartley presents prizes to raffle winners to Thomas and Kathy Chou.*

## Spotlighting Success

### Bristol County Teen Parents Get Extra Help at School

Teenagers who are also parents deal with stressors unique to the overlap of these two intense and challenging roles. The CTF-funded Young Parents Program in Taunton offers support for these extra stressors within the school setting—an effective way to help teen parents adjust to new demands while they continue their education.

The program is run by Health Care of Southeastern Mass. in Bristol/Plymouth Regional Technical Vocational High School. Ann

Ayoub, group leader, stresses the value of sharing and learning within the group format. For instance, she says the input of the one teen father in the group helps the mothers understand a young father's fears. She has also seen him gain confidence, and come to feel "that he can get up all alone at night and change and feed the baby and feel like he did a good job."

A frequent topic is unrealistic expectations. Information on child development for teen parents has proven crucial. "One mom used to think that her five-month-old baby would know that she was upset and be able to comfort her...I've seen a lot of progress!"

MASS. HS 50.103:996/Spring ✓

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**Grants for Parenting Education and Support Programs available for Fall 1996—details inside!**

Child abuse and neglect is an epidemic. Last year, over 3 million American children were reported for abuse or neglect—the leading cause of death for children under age four. It seems that each week we hear the tragic story of another child's death in the news. Yet, most of the public debate has focused on services that are available only after abuse has occurred. If we had approached polio in this way, we would now have state-of-the-art lung machines but no vaccine!

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Please honor it with a donation of time or resources. Call your state representative and ask what child abuse prevention efforts they support. Volunteer at a parent education program in your community. Call the news station the next time you hear coverage of child abuse and ask them to do a story on solutions to this crisis. Finally, please respond to the CTF annual appeal and help us fund prevention programs throughout the Commonwealth. Child abuse and neglect *can* be prevented—with your help.

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Preventing Child Abuse In Massachusetts

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## Burden Foundation Targets Massachusetts for Prevention

Thanks to the generosity of the Florence V. Burden Foundation, CTF's popular child safety program, *Talking About Touching*, is being funded in 18 additional preschools throughout north central and south central Massachusetts. The program gives three- and four-year-olds the skills to make them less vulnerable to sexual abuse and abduction and teaches them about car, fire and water safety, as well.

The grant of \$20,000 will cover the costs of providing comprehensive training for preschool staff members, implementing the *Talking About Touching* curriculum in each

preschool, and providing workshops and materials for parents.

**"The Burden Foundation is pleased to join Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts and others in supporting CTF's prevention efforts. It welcomes this opportunity to invest in children's lives at a critical stage of development—to help children help themselves."**

— Eliza Rossman,  
Executive Director



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# Resources

## Hancock Underwrites Program for Cape Verdean Parents in Dorchester

John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company has generously awarded CTF \$2,500 to help strengthen Massachusetts families through parenting education and support. CTF will use the grant to assist Family Service of Greater Boston with its Cape Verdean Nurturing Program in Dorchester.

This 15-week bilingual program will help parents in the large Cape Verdean community in Dorchester to gain information and support, as well as address the difficulties of adapting to a new culture. Parents meet in one group while children are in another, both learning new skills through discussion, role play, music, puppets and games. Families regroup during each session for a meal, which allows opportunities for practice in establishing nurturing routines, communicating needs, and taking charge of behavior, without resorting to aggression or physical discipline.

Research shows that providing parents with information and peer support can improve their confidence and skills as care-givers. Many thanks to John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company for its leadership in recognizing and meeting this need!

## Volunteer at CTF's Pioneer Valley Walk!

All volunteers are invited to attend a recruitment meeting on Thursday, April 25, from 5 to 6 p.m. on the 7th floor of Scibelli Hall, rooms 701-702, STCC.

## Boston-based Friends for Children Awards Grant to CTF

On February 21, the Board of Friends for Children, a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to prevent child abuse, presented CTF with a check for \$6,000. The money was raised at Friends of Children's annual Irish Christmas party, and will be used for parenting education and support programs in Boston.



*Friends for Children Board Members.  
Front: Joan Santa Maria, Lee  
Woodsworth, City Council President Jim  
Kelly Back: Rep. Kevin Fitzgerald, Joe  
Dart, Mike Small, Councilor Peggy  
Davis-Mullen, Rep. Tom Finneran,  
Gailanne Reeh, Suzin Bartley, John  
Hannah.*

## Second Annual Walk for Safety in Pioneer Valley

Springfield Mayor Michael Albano, Springfield Chief of Police Paula Meara, Channel 22 News Anchor Brenda Garton and CTF Board Chair Dr. Edward Bailey will lead the charge at CTF's second annual 3k walk for child abuse prevention. The walk will begin at Springfield Technical Community College and end on the steps of Springfield City Hall. It will be held on Saturday, May 11, in conjunction with the Spirit of Springfield Pancake Breakfast. The money raised will support child abuse prevention efforts in Pioneer Valley. Walkers may request registration materials by calling CTF at (800) 252-8403 ext. 318.

# Getting the Message Out

## Scoring Points for Safety in Brockton

From the moment he ducked through the door wearing a CTF hat and size 18 sneakers, Boston Celtic Eric Montross' great size awed and excited the 200 elementary school children from the Goddard School. Every month, Eric and his wife, Laura, visit schools that use the *Kids and Company* curriculum funded by CTF.

Goddard students sang the "Check First" song and practiced their safety skills through entertaining role-plays with the Montrosses. Eric's main message to the children was:

**"It's easy to be safe. Remember three rules: check first; use the buddy system; and yell 'No,' go and tell. You are special to a lot of people. Your parents, family, friends, teachers and Laura and I don't want anything bad to happen to you."**

Eric feels that what he does in the community is as important as what he does on the basketball court. His wife, Laura, added,

**"When we came to Massachusetts we looked for a children's charity to work with. CTF has everything we wanted. We hurt with every story about a child being killed, abducted or abused. If we save just one child, all our efforts will be worth it."**



*Eric Montross talks to Brockton children about staying safe.*



## Family Fun in Fall River

This spring, CTF is collaborating with the community of Fall River to increase awareness of the need for parent education and support. Together they will hold a family celebration call *Families Together: Caring for Kids in Our Neighborhoods*. The committee organizing this event draws its members from all sections of the community, including the mayor's office, churches, the police force and the school department. The event will take place on April 27 and will include games for families and children .

Like last year, the event will culminate with the announcement of the winners of the Second Annual CTF Art Contest for greater Fall River. This year 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in greater Fall River schools are invited to draw a picture of a favorite activity they do with a brother, sister or best friend. The contest closes on Friday, April 5. Drawings should be on 8½" x 11" paper only, and may be delivered to principals' offices or to Community Development Recreation at 72 Bank Street, Fall River. There will be 10 winners from each grade.

# Spotlighting Success

## Wakefield Parents Get Help Taking the Next Step

(Excerpt from the February 11, 1996  
edition of *The Boston Globe*)

Having a special needs child can be stressful and isolating, but in Wakefield there is a place that parents can get information and support from other parents with similar challenges.

Through a grant from CTF, the Eastern Middlesex Association for Retarded Citizens provides "Supporting the Next Step," a group for parents with children making the transition from Early Intervention to public school and the social services system. Early Intervention provides diagnostic and corrective services to children with developmental delays under the age of three.

The group helps parents get the support and information they need to make important decisions and choices that will shape their children's education and lives.

Speakers are invited to address topics such as "Communicating with Professionals in Your Child's Life," "Brothers and Sisters: Understanding the Sibling Relationship" and "Exploring Ways to Make your Child's Daily Activities Easier."

Many of the mothers in the group say much of the learning takes place in their exchange with one another. Just being together for two hours gives them the opportunity to make each other aware of services their families have, techniques that worked and other types of information as specific as which teachers to request in a particular school system.

One of the mothers described the value of the group this way:

*"It's important to just know that you're not alone—that someone else's kid got up at 2 a.m., too, or that something you haven't tried yet worked for them."*

## 5th Annual Parenting Education and Support Request for Proposals

CTF is preparing for a new year of Parenting Education and Support Grants! This summer CTF will award grants of up to \$2,500 to community-based programs for parents of children ages birth through five years. The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued at the end of March. If you are not already on CTF's RFP list and would like to receive one, or have any questions about the grants, please call Patty Kamarinos, Grants Coordinator, at (617) 727-8957 or (800) 252-8403 ext. 309.

## It Takes a Whole Village to Raise a Child: Parents and Providers in Partnership

This full-day parent and family education conference will be held on Friday, May 10, at Cambridge College. The cost is \$25. For information, call Ginny LaCrow at (617) 868-1000 ext. 165.

# Supporting Families

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month! Calendar of Events

### Tuesday, April 2

*Legislative Breakfast* 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Parker House. Legislators will learn more about the importance of child abuse prevention and CTF's work to support families. Please urge your legislator to attend.

### Monday, April 8

*School-based Prevention Day at the Statehouse.* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the foot of the Grand Staircase. Come learn about CTF-funded programs *Kids and Company* and *Talking About Touching* and find out if they are being used in your town. Ask your legislators to stop by, as well!

### Sunday, April 21

*Declaration of Child Abuse Prevention Month at the Fleet Center.* Ceremony during half-time of the Boston Celtics-New York Knicks game.

### Thursday, April 11

*Kids and Company Regional Training at CTF Headquarters.* Schools interested in participating should call the Lipton Center at 508-537-6039.

*Boston Celtic Eric Montross and Laura Montross visit the Atrium School in Watertown* to talk to kids, parents and teachers about child personal safety.

### Monday and Tuesday, April 22-23

*Tools for Building Strong Families and Communities: A Multi-disciplinary Institute on Family Support.* Twenty all-day institutes will provide intensive training on strategies and skills for working with families and communities. Held in Boxborough, Mass. For more information, call Community Programs Innovation at (617)547-5577. Register by April 10.

### Saturday, April 27

*Families Together: Caring for Kids in Our Neighborhoods.* Family festival in greater Fall River, including an Art Contest for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, a Family Fun Tips Contest, a raffle, family games, activities and food.

### Tuesday, April 30

*Proposals for Parenting Education and Support Grants Due* Proposals will be accepted for community-based groups serving parents of children ages birth through five years. For more information, call Patty Kamarinos, Grants Coordinator. at (617) 727-8957 ext. 309.

*For more information on these events,  
please call CTF at (617) 727-8957 or (800) 252-8403.*

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# Prevention Works!

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News of the  
Massachusetts  
Children's Trust Fund  
Summer 1996

## Funds for Newborn Home Visiting a Possibility

University of Massachusetts  
The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund Copy

Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize all segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families. Created by state law in 1988, CTF is charged with implementing Massachusetts' child abuse prevention plan.



For the first time, the Massachusetts House of Representatives, with the strong support of Speaker Finneran, took the historic step of including monies for a newborn home visiting program in the FY'97 budget. The pilot program would fund home visits for young moms in Boston, Springfield, Lawrence and Worcester. Home visiting is considered the single most effective strategy in preventing child abuse and neglect. In Hawaii, where this program is offered, 99% of high risk families served have no reported abuse and neglect. The program costs less than \$3,000 per family—a far cry from the high costs of treatment after abuse occurs. Clearly, this program makes sound fiscal sense, as well as good social policy.

The pilot was not included in the Senate budget, but will be discussed in the House/Senate conference committee in June. CTF hopes that funding for this valuable pilot will be retained. Please take a moment and let your State Representative and Senator know where *you* stand on prevention.

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## "CTF Workshops Are Always Terrific—Thanks!"

—Participant

**C**TF's spring conference, *Tools for Building Strong Families and Communities: A Multi-disciplinary Institute on Family*

*Support*, hosted 760 participants. For many, the conference provided a rare opportunity to learn more about effective strategies for working with families, and to connect with others in the field. Day-long workshops offered in-depth training from national experts on a variety of topics.

Dr. Robert Brooks, Director of Psychology at McLean Hospital and author of *The Self-Esteem Teacher*, gave the first day's keynote speech on Strategies for Strengthening Parents. He spoke of the need for empathy in working with parents and helping them to empathize with their children, posing the questions "What words will our children use to describe us? And what words do we hope they will use?"

Dr. Brooks went on to point out that every child is unique at birth. Parent educators need to give parents a sense of "realistic hope" that they can effectively deal with the challenges of raising their children as individuals.

Dr. Brooks also discussed the importance of resiliency, stating that children who overcome adversity have "at least one adult who truly believes in them." He urged parent educators to help parents change "negative scripts" through humor and praise.

Dr. Nicolas Carbelleira, Director of the Latino Health Institute in Boston, gave the second day's keynote speech on Building Trust Across Cultures. Through entertaining anecdotes, Dr.

Carbelleira made the case that we are all "cultural," and we have all become experts at addressing diversity in our own lives. We must learn to use these skills in a broader fashion to embrace diversity in the community.

## CTF Launches Pilot Programs in Holyoke, Brockton and Fitchburg

**C**ongratulations to three community-based coalitions who were selected by CTF to implement three nationally-known parent education and support program models, each with a unique perspective on providing support to families. Evaluation studies of each model demonstrate that they significantly enhance parents' ability to provide a safe, stimulating and nurturing home environment for their children.

In an effort to expand inter-agency collaboration in the development of a statewide family resource network, CTF's family support initiative was designed to dovetail with other state-funded family support projects. CTF will provide technical assistance both to grantees and their parent advisory boards. Recipients are:

- Enlace de Familias de Holyoke, awarded \$33,000 to run AVANCE, a nine-month program which includes toy-making and parenting education classes for mothers of children 0-3 years. A unique aspect of the program is the bilingual/bicultural (Spanish-English) curriculum. A long term goal for parents in the AVANCE program is to continue their education through GED, ESL, college or job training programs.

# g Families

- Brockton Neighbors United, awarded \$40,000 to run the MELD Young Moms and Growing Families program. The year-long support groups will provide adolescent parents with information and support using a peer self-help approach. Parent volunteers will be identified, trained and supervised to lead the groups, building a sense of community to last beyond the duration of the program. Self-Help, Inc. will implement the program for the coalition.
- The Fitchburg Safe and Healthy Neighborhood Coalition, awarded \$30,000 to run the Nurturing Program in the Cleghorn neighborhood. The five-month program works with the whole family to build nurturing skills such as empathy, communication and stress and anger management. The program also teaches parents alternatives to corporal punishment that encourage responsibility in their children. The L.U.K. Crisis center will implement the program for the coalition.



## Save the Date!

**Monday, November 4  
A View From All Sides**

CTF's popular conference on parenting education will be held at the Marlboro Royal Plaza hotel. A brochure will be mailed to you in September. This conference has been sold out for the past two years, so make sure to register early!



FayFoto

Senator Norton, Congressman Moakley and Eric and Laura Montross

## Senator Norton Honored for his Work for Children

**O**n April 2, Senate Majority Leader Thomas C. Norton received CTF's *Valuing Our Children* award at the annual legislative breakfast recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Congressman Joseph Moakley, Senate President Thomas Birmingham, Boston Celtic Eric Montross and his wife, Laura, and 50 legislators and aides attended and were informed about important prevention strategies.

Congressman Moakley welcomed legislators and remarked, "When I heard that more children are reported abused than are born each day, I was stunned. The statistics are dire—five children will die today from child abuse and neglect. Yet, I believe child abuse is preventable. We need to follow the example of Senator Norton and CTF, and renew our commitment to improving the lives of children."

CTF spokespeople Eric and Laura Montross and Executive Director Suzin Bartley highlighted CTF's prevention programs. Eric commented that prevention education works and that young minds appreciate guidance and support. He held up a card from a student that read simply, "Thanks to you we are smarter."

# Getting the Message Out



Arlene Heiss

*Mayor Ed Lambert's story-reading skills won him rapt attention.*

## Fall River Fun-fest Highlights Prevention

**O**n April 27th, over 350 Fall River residents turned out to support and learn more about abuse prevention efforts in their city. Families enjoyed a fun-filled morning, including a magic show and a sing-along. Parenting information from many agencies was available.

Senator Tom Norton and Representative Mike Rodrigues awarded prizes to the 30 winners of CTF's second annual art contest for third, fourth and fifth graders of greater Fall River. The event concluded with a raffle drawing for roundtrip airfare for two on Azores Express.



Arlene Heiss

*Community Development Recreation provided creative fun for young artists.*



Nathan Martin

## Prevention Works in Pioneer Valley 3K Walk Attracts 300

**B**renda Garton, TV22 anchorwoman and leader of CTF's first Pioneer Valley walk to benefit child abuse prevention last year, was joined this year by Springfield Mayor Michael Albano, Chief of Police Paula Meara, CTF Board Chair Ed Bailey, STCC President Andrew Scibelli and Senator Linda Melconian.

A volunteer band set the beat as walkers proceeded from Springfield Technical Community College to the steps of City Hall and then on to the Spirit of Springfield Pancake Breakfast, which provided free tickets for all walkers. CTF and the Exchange Clubs of Springfield collected over \$5,000 for Pioneer Valley child abuse prevention efforts.



Nathan Martin

*A young walk participant stops for a snack.*

# Getting the Message Out, cont.

## Honorees Stand Tall for Child Abuse Prevention



Steve Lipofsky

John Walsh, host of Fox Television's *America's Most Wanted*, and Boston Celtic Eric Montross had some fun during the Celtics-Knicks game on April 21, but the purpose of their meeting was serious. Montross presented CTF's annual *Voice for Children Award* to Walsh on behalf of the Adam Walsh Children's Fund and to Digital Equipment Corporation for their leadership in developing the child safety curriculum *Kids and Company*.

Walsh, whose son Adam was abducted and murdered in 1981, noted "With public support, CTF can offer every community programs like *Kids and Company*. Knowledge is power. Personal safety skills are the most important things a child can learn."

Every fan received a child safety tips brochure funded by Stop & Shop Corporation. Special thanks to the Celtics and Mike Dorsey Designs.



Steve Lipofsky

Digital Corporate Contributions  
Manager Jane Hamel, Callahan Walsh,  
John Walsh, Eric and Laura Montross.

## Community Members in Southampton and Wellesley Learn More About Abuse Prevention

In March, Gerald and Betty Ann Krywicki hosted 40 community leaders for an informal meeting in their Southampton home. State Representative Nancy Flavin, Representative William Nagle's aide Bill Metzger, Hampshire County District Attorney Coordinator of Community Education Kathleen Alexander, several school principals, health directors, community group staff members, pediatricians, and CTF Board Members from Pioneer Valley learned about proven strategies for preventing child abuse. Krywicki summarized the significance of CTF's house parties when she said "As a community, we must work together to prevent child abuse. I feel this gathering is a step in the right direction."

Shirley Kelly and Sharon Alphas, both members of CTF's Gala Planning Committee, hosted a morning coffee at Shirley Kelly's Wellesley home in May. In addition to discussing CTF's effective strategies for child abuse prevention, guests learned about CTF's volunteer opportunities.

### Save the Date!

#### Saturday, November 16 CTF's Annual Gala

This year's event will be held at Le Meridien, and will include gourmet dining, dancing and a bargain-filled auction of one-of-a-kind offers!

# Spotlighting Success

## Bonding through Books in Boston's South End

Mothers at the Mary E. Sargent House transitional housing program for ex-offenders are not only learning about how to make reading enjoyable for their children. They are finding that taking time to explore the magic of books can help them to communicate better with their children and to be more effective parents, as well.

The Motheread program was originally designed to make visits between incarcerated parents and their children less tense. It is unique in its sensitivity to the needs of mothers who have been separated from their children while in prison, many of whom have a difficult time reconnecting emotionally when they are reunited. Motheread helps them to bond with their children in a way that fosters love of learning.

Facilitator Juliana Smith is adept at using "ice-breakers" to help participants feel comfortable, encouraging them to share their ideas and experiences. At each session she presents several of the books from the Motheread curriculum list, which are selected because they introduce essential life lessons, such as the importance of being responsible. She reads them aloud to help mothers see



Marilyn Humphries

how to use their voices and expressions to make the books engaging for their children. Then she leads a discussion about the issues raised by each book. Later the mothers read the books to their children. One of the mothers described the program:

*"No one read stories to me as a kid. Now, I sit upstairs and read to my kids. Sometimes my son reads to his sister and I sit between them. It's real nice to see them, reading like this. I'm young to be a parent. It has made a change in my life, being around other mothers, more experienced mothers. I'm learning from them."*

## The First Massachusetts Conference on Women

will be held on Saturday, September 28 at Simmons College. If you are interested in attending or helping to plan, please call Diane Hammer at 617-521-2480 or Kellie Rose at 617-722-1625.

## It's still not too late...

to be listed in CTF's updated *Directory of Home Visiting Programs in Massachusetts*. The directory not only helps parents and providers access programs but serves as a tool to increase state funding for home visiting. If your organization has not received a survey please call Brooke DeMary at 617-727-8957 ext. 307.